Tracy P. Cheever.
M. E. H. Priest

Royal Arch
Chapter of the Shekinah

BY-LAWS,

CHARTER, ORGANIZATION,

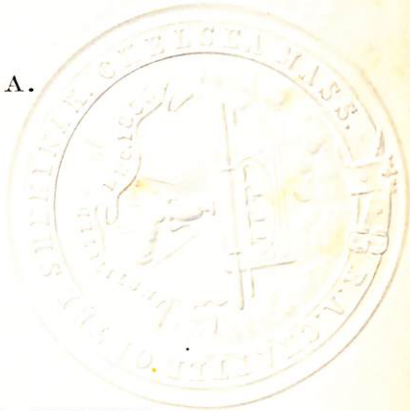
AND

LIST OF MEMBERS

OF THE

R. A. Chapter of the Shekinah,

CHELSEA.



Boston:
McINTIRE & MOULTON, PRINTERS,
No. 42 Congress Street.
1859.

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CHARTER.

To all the Exalted and Enlightened

Under the Canopy of Heaven,

Wheresoever Assembled or Dispersed.

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter, *in and for the* Commonwealth of Massachusetts, *sendeth*

GREETING:

Be it known, That in pursuance of the Powers vested in us by the Constitution of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States of America, and for sundry good and sufficient reasons and causes, as thereunto moving, being first fully informed of the good moral character, and reposing special trust and confidence in the Masonic abilities of the following Companions of this Degree, all resident in or near the town of Chelsea, in the County of Suffolk, in the Commonwealth aforesaid, have constituted, and by these presents

do constitute, WILLIAM KNAPP, EDWIN BARNES, CHAS. A. DAVIS, SLADE LUTHER, WM. GOODWIN, PATRICK MURRAY, JOHN F. FELLOWS, A. J. HILBOURN, JOSHUA FOSTER, THOMAS C. SAVORY, JOHN E. WILDER, GEO. H. PEARSON, ROBERT LASH, EBEN W. LOTHROP, GEO. H. RICE, JOHN LOW, JAS. L. SMITH, JAS. H. LONG, N. P. RICHARDS, WM. C. NORTON, TRACY P. CHEEVER, ROBERT DAVIDSON, H. H. CAMPBELL, JOS. BROOKS, and JOHN R. DUFER, together with all and every therein regular Associates, Companions, and Successors, into a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, by the Name and Style of the Chapter of the Shekinah, to take rank, date and precedence from the twenty-seventh day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five. And we do hereby authorize and empower them, the said William Knapp and Edwin Barnes and their associates or any nine of them, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, to open and hold a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the said town of Chelsea, and to Exalt, at their discretion, any Master Masons to the degree of Royal Arch Masons; and for that purpose to open and hold Lodges of Mark Masters, Past Masters, and Most Excellent Masters, agreeably to the ancient Usages and Customs of Royal Arch Masons; and also to make and establish any good and wholesome By-Laws and Regulations

for the Government of said Chapter and Lodges, so always as such By-Laws and Regulations are not contrary to the Constitution of the said General Grand Royal Arch Chapter, or of this Grand Royal Arch Chapter, and the same at pleasure to alter or repeal; and further, to order and establish Dues and Penalties, and Fees for the admission of Candidates and Members as to them, or a major part of them and their associates, shall seem meet and proper. And we do hereby appoint our Excellent Companion Tracy P. Cheever, first High Priest; Excellent Companion Eben W. Lothrop, first King, and Excellent Companion Alpheus J. Hilbourn, first Scribe of said Chapter.

And we do hereby enjoin upon the Companions of the said Chapter, that they, or any number of them, do not at any time hold any private meetings or assemblies for Masonic purposes, except in the presence of a Companion appointed by the Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King, or Grand Scribe, or in the presence of either High Priest, King, or Scribe of the said Chapter for the time being; or a Companion appointed by said officers, or either of them. And further, that they strictly and regularly pay, or cause to be paid, annually, to this Grand Chapter, all their lawful dues, by the hands of their High Priest, King, and Scribe, or their proxies. And

it is hereby absolutely required of the said High Priest, King, and Scribe, for the time being, that they attend regularly, either in person or by their Proxies, at all regular communications of this Grand Royal Arch Chapter.

In Witness Whereof, We, the Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King, and Grand Scribe, have hereunto subscribed our names, and caused the seal of the said Grand Chapter to be affixed, and the same to be attested by the Grand Secretary, this ninth day of December, Anno Lucis five thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.

Daniel Harwood, Grand High Priest.

William Rounseville Alger,
Deputy Grand High Priest.

Wendall Thornton Davis, Grand King.

Jno. Andrews, Grand Scribe.

Attest,

Thos. Waterman, Grand Secretary.

[SEAL.]

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

Name of Chapter.

SECTION 1. The title, style, and name of this Chapter shall be the "ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF THE SHEKINAH."

Officers and Members.—Stated Meetings.

SECTION 2. This Chapter shall consist of a High Priest, King, Scribe, Treasurer, Secretary, Captain of the Host, Principal Sojourner, Royal Arch Captain, three Masters of Veils, Chaplain, two Stewards, together with such Members as are or shall be constitutionally admitted, and shall meet at "Masonic Hall," Chelsea, on the evening of the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month, at the hour appointed by the M. E. High Priest.

Time of Electing and Installing Officers.

SECTION 3. All the officers shall be elected annually, on the evening of the SECOND WEDNESDAY

in December, by written ballots, excepting the Chaplain and Stewards, who shall be appointed by the High Priest. The officers so elected and appointed, shall be installed as soon as convenient.

Officers of the Appendant Degrees.

SECTION 4. The first five officers of the Chapter shall be the first five officers of the Appendant Degrees; the Masters of the Veils shall be the Overseers; and in the absence of the first three officers, or either of them, their stations to be supplied by the Captain of the Host, Principal Sojourner, and Royal Arch Captain, according to rank.

ARTICLE II.

Duties of the High Priest.

SECTION 1. The High Priest shall appoint some suitable person for Tyler to the Chapter, and, in concert with the King and Scribe, call special meetings on emergencies.

Treasurer's Duty.

SECTION 2. The Treasurer shall receive the money from the Secretary, and receipt therefor,

and shall pay such bills as have been passed by the Standing Committee, as far as the funds will admit; and when he shall have on hand the sum of one hundred dollars, clear of debt, he shall report the fact to the Standing Committee, who shall proceed to invest such money to the best possible advantage.

At the close of the year he shall render a just and fair account of all the money by him received and paid, and shall deliver to his successor in office the balance remaining in his hands, and all other property of the Chapter which was intrusted to his care.

Duty of the Secretary.—Compensation.

SECTION 3. The Secretary shall keep a just and fair record of the proceedings of the Chapter; collect all money due, and pay it over, once at least in three months, to the Treasurer; shall issue notifications, one day at least previous to each regular meeting, on which he shall insert the names of candidates proposed for the degrees or membership; shall also issue notifications for special meetings (stating the cause for the same) as soon as may be after having received directions therefor; shall present the Chairman of every Committee with a copy of the vote by which he is

appointed; shall also report the names of delinquents of the same; and, as a compensation for his services, shall be exempt from quarterages; and shall report at the annual meetings.

Stewards' Duty.

SECTION 4. The Stewards shall take charge of the jewels, regalia, and wardrobe of the Chapter.

Tyler's Duty and Compensation.

SECTION 5. The Tyler shall call on the Secretary for the notifications, and distribute them one day at least previous to each regular meeting; shall distribute the notifications for special meetings as soon as possible after having received them from the Secretary; shall attend in season at every meeting, and at all times be subject to the government of the Chapter; and, as a compensation for his services, shall be paid one dollar, or such other sum as the Chapter may from time to time agree upon, for each meeting he attends.

ARTICLE III.

Mode of Application.—Time and Manner of Admission.

Each applicant for membership shall be proposed by a member of the Chapter, but shall not be balloted for until the next meeting, nor until after a committee appointed to investigate his character shall have reported thereon, and his name shall have been inserted on the notices for the meeting at which the ballot is to be taken; the applicant must have the unanimous vote of the members present, pay five dollars if exalted in this Chapter, or fifteen dollars if exalted in any other, and sign the By-Laws; after which he shall be entitled to all the privileges and immunities of membership.

Should the applicant neglect to appear within six months from the time of his admission as a member, sign the By-Laws, and pay the usual fee, such negligence may operate as a forfeiture of his claim to membership, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at the first meeting held after the expiration of six months from his admission.

ARTICLE IV.

Qualifications and Privileges of Honorary Members.

SECTION 1. Any member of this Chapter, who has been, or shall be, admitted an honorary member, shall not thereby lose any privilege of membership, and other honorary members may vote on all questions except the disposal of the funds; and no Companion shall be admitted an honorary member but by an unanimous ballot, nor unless his name shall have been inserted on the notifications for the meeting on which the ballot is to be taken.

Quarterages.

SECTION 2. Every member shall pay quarterly the sum of fifty cents.

Forfeiture of Membership.

SECTION 3. Each member shall settle his account with the Secretary, at least once a year; but should any refuse or neglect so to do, his name shall be returned to the Standing Committee, and the Secretary shall notify him of the same; and

should the neglect continue six months longer, without an excuse satisfactory to the Standing Committee, it shall thereupon operate as a forfeiture of his membership, and the Secretary shall inform the Chapter thereof, and minute it upon the records.

Deceased Members.

SECTION 4. In case of the decease of any member of this Chapter, the Treasurer shall immediately, on his knowledge thereof, present the widow or orphan child or children of such member, as the case may be, with twenty-five dollars, under the direction of the Standing Committee.

ARTICLE V.

Fees for the Degrees.

SECTION 1. Each candidate for the Degrees shall deposit with the Secretary thirty dollars (the fees for the several degrees) before his name shall be inserted on the notifications, and a committee shall be appointed to investigate and report on his moral character.

If he should not be accepted, the deposit shall

be returned; if accepted, and he refuses or neglects to attend one year after acceptance, it shall be forfeited, unless a satisfactory excuse for such neglect be given.

Fees for Mark and M. E. Master's Degrees.

SECTION 2. Whereas many Companions, who have been exalted out of this jurisdiction, have never received the Mark Degree, and some who have not received the Most Excellent Master's Degree, therefore, any such Companions, upon receiving the Mark Degree in this Chapter, shall pay ten dollars, and for receiving the Most Excellent Master's Degree, shall pay six dollars.

Candidates Proposed and Balloted For.

SECTION 3. Every candidate for the Degrees shall be proposed by a member, and shall not be balloted for until *fourteen days* after such proposal, unless in case of emergency, when a dispensation may be obtained.

Form of Application.

To the Most Excellent High Priest and Members of the Chapter of the Shekinah:

The subscriber, entertaining a favorable opinion of Freemasonry, is desirous of receiving the several Degrees conferred in your Chapter.

Dated at Chelsea, 585

Signed, *A. B.*

—

We, the undersigned, are acquainted with Bro. A. B., named in the above application, and believe him to be worthy of the honor he solicits.

Chelsea, 585

A. B.
C. D.

Diploma.

SECTION 4. Any Companion exalted in this Chapter, desiring a Diploma, shall receive the same upon application to the Secretary.

Members—How Received.

SECTION 5. No candidate for membership, or degrees, shall be balloted for, unless his name be on the notifications for the meetings at which the ballot is to be taken.

ARTICLE VI.

Standing Committee.

The High Priest, King, and Scribe, shall be a Standing Committee; they shall examine all bills against the Chapter, and no bill shall be paid without the signature of at least *one* of said officers. The Standing Committee shall also superintend generally the affairs of the Chapter.

ARTICLE VII.

Trustees of the Fund.

There shall be elected at the annual meeting, three Trustees of the Fund, which may be invested from time to time. The Trustees so elected shall hold the legal title to the funded property of the Chapter, and shall manage the same to the best advantage.

ARTICLE VIII.

Amendments and Alterations—How Made.

No amendment or alteration in the foregoing By-Laws, shall be made at the meeting at which it is proposed, nor until after it has been considered by a committee, and notice of a proposed amendment having been given on the notifications of the meeting at which it is to be considered.

PETITIONERS FOR DISPENSATION.

Wm. Knapp,	Charles A. Davis, M. D.,
Edwin Barnes,	Slade Luther,
P. Murray,	Wm. Goodwin,
Thomas C. Savory,	Robert Lash,

Wm. E. P. Haskell.

TEMPORARY ORGANIZATION, DEC. 18, 5855.

M. E. H. Priest,.....Robert Lash.
E. King,.....Wm. Knapp.
E. Scribe,.....Edwin Barnes.
Capt. of the Host,.....Robert Keith.
Prin. Sojourner,.....Wm. Goodwin.
R. A. Captain,.....Wm. Parkman.
Master of 3d Veil,.....Patrick Murray.
Master of 2d Veil,.....Fred. S. Ainsworth.
Master of 1st Veil,.....Slade Luther.
Secretary,.....Charles A. Davis, M. D.

ORGANIZATION, 5855–6.

M. E. H. Priest,.....Wm. Knapp.
E. King,.....Edwin Barnes.
E. Scribe,.....Thomas C. Savory.
Secretary,.....Charles A. Davis, M. D.
Treasurer,..... .....Slade Luther.
Capt. of the Host,.....John F. Fellows.
Prin. Sojourner,.....Tracy P. Cheever.
R. A. Captain,.....Charles A. Davis.
Master of 3d Veil,.....Edwin Barnes.
Master of 2d Veil,.....Geo. H. Rice.
Master of 1st Veil,.....Eben W. Lothrop.
Tyler,.....Joshua Foster.
Stewards,..... { Robert Davidson. / Wm. C. Norton.

ORGANIZATION, 5856–7.

M. E. H. Priest,.....Tracy P. Cheever.
E. King,.....Eben W. Lothrop.
E. Scribe,.....Alpheus J. Hilbourn.
Capt. of the Host,.....John F. Fellows.
Prin. Sojourner,.....John Low.
R. A. Captain,.....Charles A. Davis, M. D.
Master of 3d Veil,.....Wm. C. Norton.
Master of 2d Veil,.....Robert Davidson.
Master of 1st Veil,.....James L. Smith.
Treasurer,.....Slade Luther.
Secretary,.....Geo. H. Rice.
Stewards,.....Henry H. Campbell.
Norman P. Richards.
Tyler,.....Joshua Foster.

ORGANIZATION, 5857–8.

M. E. H. Priest,.....Tracy P. Cheever.
E. King,.....Geo. H. Rice.
E. Scribe,.....Jos. Brooks.
Capt. of the Host,.....John F. Fellows.
Prin. Sojourner,.....Eben W. Lothrop.
R. A. Captain,.....Charles A. Davis, M. D.
Master of 3d Veil,.....Wm. C. Norton.
Master of 2d Veil,.....Charles M. Avery.
Master of 1st Veil,.....John E. Wilder.
Secretary,.....Charles Caldwell.
Treasurer,.....Slade Luther.
Stewards,.....Thomas H. Carruth.
Henry H. Campbell.
Tyler,.....Robert Davidson.
Chaplain,.....Rev. Chas. H. Leonard.

ORGANIZATION, 5858–9.

M. E. H. Priest,.....Tracy P. Cheever.
E. King,.....Chas. A. Davis, M. D.
E. Scribe,.....Geo. W. Churchill.
Capt. of the Host,.....John F. Fellows.
Prin. Sojourner,.....Eben W. Lothrop.
R. A. Captain,.....Charles M. Avery.
Master of 3d Veil,.....John E. Wilder.
Master of 2d Veil,.....Wm. A. Williams.
Master of 1st Veil,.....Edwin C. Bailey.
Treasurer,.....Slade Luther.
Stewards,.....Thomas H. Carruth.
Henry H. Campbell.
Tyler,.....Charles Howard.
Chaplain,.....Rev. Chas. H. Leonard.
Secretary,.....Charles Caldwell.

TRUSTEES.

Tracy P. Cheever,
Charles A. Davis, M. D.,
Geo. W. Churchill.

ORIGINAL MEMBERS.

Wm. Knapp,
Charles A. Davis, M. D.,
Edwin Barnes,
Slade Luther,
Patrick Murray,
Wm. Goodwin,
Thomas C. Savory,
Robert Lash.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

M. E. Robert Lash.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

Admitted.

Mar. 20, 1857.....Jos. Andrews,
Mar. 20, 1857.....Charles M. Avery,
Dec. 9, 1855.....Edwin Barnes,
May 15, 1856.....Jos. Brooks,
June 9, 1858.....Edwin C. Bailey,
June 21, 1858....Wm. K. Bacall,
June 21, 1858....Clifton A. Blanchard,
Sept. 8, 1858.....James I. Brown,
Sept. 8, 1858.....Noah Blanchard,
Feb. 2, 1856.....Tracy P. Cheever,
May 15, 1856.....Henry H. Campbell,
Mar. 20, 1857.....Thomas H. Carruth,
May 15, 1857.....Charles Caldwell,
Mar. 19, 1858.....Geo. W. Churchill,
Apr. 29, 1859.....James A. Cutting,
Apr. 29, 1859.....Daniel J. Carruth,
Dec. 9, 1855.....Charles A. Davis, M. D.,
May 15, 1856.....Robert Davidson,
May 15, 1856.....John R. Dufer,
July 14, 1858.....Wm. H. Elder,
Feb. 2, 1856.....John F. Fellows,
May 15, 1856.....*Joshua Foster,

* Deceased.

Admitted.

Dec. 9, 1855.....Wm. Goodwin,
June 9, 1858.....Charles T. Gay,
July 14, 1858.....Nath. Gale,
Apr. 29, 1859.....Geo. A. Guild,
May 15, 1856.....Alpheus J. Hilbourn,
June 9, 1858.....Samuel Hatch,
July 14, 1858. ...Charles F. Haines,
Mar. 9, 1859.....John E. Hesseltine, Jr.,
Apr. 29, 1859.....Charles Howard,
May 15, 1857.....Enoch Ilsley,
Dec. 9, 1855.....Wm. Knapp,
Dec. 9, 1855.....Slade Luther,
Dec. 9, 1855.....Robert Lash,
Feb. 2, 1856.....Eben W. Lothrop,
May 15, 1856.....John Low,
May 15, 1856.....James H. Long,
May 15, 1857.....Rev. Charles H. Leonard,
Apr. 29, 1859.....John Lothrop,
Dec. 9, 1855.....Patrick Murray,
Mar. 19, 1858.....John F. Mills,
Feb. 2, 1856.....Wm. C. Norton,
June 19, 1858.....Edward G. Nickerson,
Feb. 2, 1856.....Geo. H. Pearson,
Apr. 29, 1859.....Wm. W. Peirce,
Feb. 2, 1856.....Geo. H. Rice,
July 1, 1857.....Norman P. Richards,
July 17, 1857.....Henry Reed,
Dec. 9, 1855.....Thomas C. Savory,
May 15, 1856.....James L. Smith,
June 19, 1858.....Benj. P. Shillaber,
July 14, 1858.....Bela N. Stevens,

Admitted.

Apr. 29, 1859.....Albert H. Silvester,
Apr. 29, 1859.....Fred. Spoor,
June 21, 1858....Edward D. Thayer,
Apr. 29, 1859.....Geo. W. Vose,
Feb. 2, 1856.....A. Brockery Wyman,
Feb. 2, 1856.....John E. Wilder,
July 17, 1857.....Charles Watson,
July 17, 1857.....Wm. A. Williams,
June 19, 1858.....Charles F. Wood,
July 14, 1858.....Charles L. Woodbury,
July 14, 1858.....Sidney Webster,
Apr. 29, 1859.....Josephus J. Williams,
Apr. 29, 1859.....Michael Watson.